

Amendment and Response  
Applicant: William B. Dawson  
Serial No.: 10/603,069

Attorney Docket: KEY1027US

### REMARKS

Claims 4 and 7 have been amended above. The amendments to the claims add no new matter. Support for the amendments to claims may be found generally throughout the specification.

Claims 1 to 7 are pending.

For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicant's remarks herein are set forth under appropriate subheadings.

#### Objections to claims

Claims 4 and 7 were objected to because of improper antecedent basis for "the recessed region". The claims now recite "a recessed region".

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 4 and 7 be withdrawn.

#### Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003-0187010-A1 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,615,561 to MacDonald et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,924,724 (Olney).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of the claims.

MacDonald et al. is directed to retaining wall blocks having particular characteristics that permit alignment when building a retaining wall. The blocks are aligned by means of pin receiving cavities and pins. MacDonald et al. also show various connection systems that permit a geogrid to be tied into a retaining wall.

Olney is directed to a method of building brick veneered concrete walls. Olney uses a tie member to hold form members (element 9 in Figs. 1 and 2) a

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distance away from veneering bricks (element 12 in Figs. 1 and 2) so that concrete can be poured between them. Olney also shows that reinforcing rods are in place while concrete (element 11 in Figs. 1 and 2) is being poured. The tie member thus becomes anchored in the concrete and ties the veneering bricks to a wall. Olney is believed to be non-analogous art, because one of skill in the art would not turn to the teachings of Olney to learn about connectors used with retaining wall blocks. Even if Olney is not non-analogous art, this reference does not suggest a connector that straddles a portion of a wall block. Instead, Olney's connector straddles a region between a form (i.e., a wall support) and a veneering brick.

Neither Olney nor MacDonald et al. describe or show a connector such as that claimed by the present invention and recited in independent claims 1, 4 and 7. The present connector has first and second side segments connected by a bridge segment. The bridge segment has a pin element extending therefrom. The bridge segment is sized such that the first and second side segments straddle a web portion of the wall block.

As to the rejections of the dependent claims, these claims add elements to those required by the base claims, and thus constitute unique combinations.

There is no teaching or incentive to combine Olney and MacDonald et al. Obviousness cannot be established in the absence of some reason to support the combination of references.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 to 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of Applicant's remarks, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections, and passage of the case to issue is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/25/04

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